THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Sensex moves up or down depending on the changing perceptions of investors — domestic and overseas, retail and institutional — about the economy, the sector and the company. This perception is influenced by many factors including the macro-economic environment, the growth potential of the economy, policy credibility of the Government, corporate performance, domestic and international events and market sentiments. The recent movement in the stock markets is attributed among other factors, to the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the US, change in the monetary stance of developed countries, the expected recession in US, firming up of oil prices, Yen carry trade, the policy measures on Offshore Derivative Instruments by SEBI, impact of primary market issues, relative valuations in emerging markets etc.

(b) and (c) The authorities do not try to manage or control movement of stock indices. They have put in place systems and practices to promote a safe, transparent and efficient market and to protect market integrity. The systems instituted include advanced risk management mechanisms comprising on-line monitoring and surveillance, various limits on positions, margin requirements, circuit filters, etc. The systems and practices are reviewed continuously and modified to meet emerging needs. Measures taken to broaden and deepen markets include screen based trading system, dematerialization of securities, corporatization and demutualization of exchanges, settlement through clearing corporation, trading in derivatives, etc. Besides, SEBI maintains a constant vigil in the market, and in case of any abnormality, takes appropriate action against the concerned entities. SEBI and market participants are undertaking massive awareness programmes to educate investors about the precautions they need to take while dealing in securities and how to seek redressal of their grievances.

Waiving off debts by nationalized banks

†2401. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recovery of debts by the nationalized banks has been waived off;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the debtors getting exemption/concession in the recovery of the debt and amount involved during the last three sessions including the current one; and

(d) the details of the persons/firms getting exemption of more than one lakh rupees during the last three years including the current year, bank-wise/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The banks write off amounts in Non-Performing Asset (NPA) accounts in accordance with their board approved policies and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, either as part of compromise settlement with the borrowers or where the debt has been classified as a 'loss' asset.

(c) and (d) During the first three quarters of current financial year (2007-08), the nationalised banks have written off a total amount of Rs. 3,076 crore in NPA accounts. In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.